

REGULAR MEETINGS

General Meeting

The broad policies of the Midpeninsula Free University are determined by a General Meeting of the membership held each month. Any member of the Free University is welcome to join in the General Meeting and is entitled to a voting voice in that meeting.

Political policies, the budget, major projects, and by-laws changes all are decided by the General Meeting.

The Free U, in its meetings, tries to adapt techniques learned in its courses. For example, a member may make a motion to pause for psychodrama, for sensory awareness, for confrontation, or for silence, to relieve tension or to work through conflicts.

Coordinating Committee Meeting

This is a weekly dinner meeting, open to all members, for implementing the decisions of the General Meeting and interpreting their scope and meaning. We find out what needs to be done, gather information, and make decisions.

To achieve consensus through cooperation and understanding is often a difficult and frustrating ideal -- sometimes the issues aren't clearly stated or clearly relevant; ego trips, power trips, and conflicts often are excessive; and meetings seem to last forever. But in the past few months, we have become close to our ideal of individuals working together as a community.

Coordinating Committee Confrontation

This gathering is limited to the regular participants in Coordinating Meetings, and is intended as an opportunity to air conflicts and grievances with each other. In this way, we may free ourselves to form new and more honest working relations.

At Confrontation, we attempt to drop our public roles, turn ourselves inside out, and be honest with each other -- and perhaps even with ourselves. Honesty is exciting -- and also more difficult in ongoing working and decision-making relationships wherein productiveness and efficiency are needed.

Coordinating Committee Marathons

The Coordinating Committee has decided to establish a monthly series of weekend marathons as a supplement to the weekly Coordinating Committee Confrontation. So far we have held one forty hour marathon of psychodrama under the leadership of the Human Institute and Husein Chung and have held a silence marathon.

The marathons are intended to foster and deepen the growing sense of community among those who are involved in the ongoing activities of the Free University.

REGISTRATION & FEES

At The MFU Store: 1061 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; From Sept 16 throughout the quarter, 11 am.-8 pm.

At Stanford: Register in "SCORE" at the Pavilion Sept 23-24, 9 am.-5 pm.; White Plaza 25-27th, 10am.-2 pm.

By Mail: Cut the card out of the back cover of this catalog and send it WITH MEMBERSHIP FEE to:
P. O. Box 6691 Stanford Calif 94305. Your membership card will be mailed to you.

Fees:

The quarterly membership fee of \$10, payable by both students and teachers, entitles one to attend all seminars and workshops and to vote on all policy decisions. For high school students, the fee is \$2.

The M. F. U. will accept additional donations for the Community Center, the Bail Fund, the Campus Fund, the purchase of the Store building, or any other Free University thing you care to support. Make checks for fees payable to "M. F. U."

WHAT IS THE MIDPENINSULA FREE UNIVERSITY ?

MFU is a non-profit corporation. We are organized in order to implement a vision of cultural revolution, in which a new society will develop within the shell of the old. We have a commitment to total reconstruction at all levels. Our goal is the emergence of a new politics, a new economics, a new religion, a new education, and a new version of humanity, based on libertarian, democratic, and communitarian values.

WHAT DOES THE FREE UNIVERSITY DO ?

Courses

Any MFU member may teach a course on any subject he wishes, in any way that he wishes to teach it. There is no screening of courses, and no central control over them, except in financial matters. All courses are listed in the MFU catalog. Members register and sign up for courses they wish to take at the beginning of each academic quarter. MFU attempts to educate without bribery or coercion; we give no grades and grant no degrees. MFU members assume responsibility for their own education, and the survival and success of courses depend on their interest and initiative.

Political Action

Our premise is that education cannot be divided from action. Only by attempting to concretely realize our own values do we come to understand ourselves, our society, and the relationships between the two. Our political commitments are arrived at by a majority of those voting at meetings of the membership. At present, we are committed to support the Peace and Freedom Party, oppose National Voluntary Service, oppose laws against the use, possession, and sale of marijuana, to support nonviolent resistance to the draft and to the war in Vietnam. Just recently we have adopted resolutions supporting the resistance of the Czechoslovak people to Soviet imperialism. We have adopted a policy asserting the right of all people to democratic control of and free use of public parks for celebrations such as the quarterly Free University Be-In. We support the Black Panther Party's Ten-Point Program (... "We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, and peace.")

During the past year, we have been involved in a variety of political activities. Our members have served on the legislature of the Associated Students of Stanford University and in municipal government, have been arrested at the Oakland Induction Center, have served as delegates to the State Convention of the Peace and Freedom Movement, have opposed political suspensions at Stanford University, have demonstrated against the National Service Foundation, and have worked to help coordinate the activities of the student movement at Stanford.

As an organization, we have supported and aided the Ad Hoc Committee to Liberate Downtown Palo Alto which has just recently held a series of demonstrations against parts of the Palo Alto power structure. The demonstrations were directed specifically against the refusal of a major Palo Alto landholder to grant a lease to the Free University on a downtown building for the Community Center (next page). The Free University had negotiated in good faith for the lease for a period of several months and had been granted a right of first refusal. Rejection of our leasing offer was clearly discriminatory. In response to this discriminatory rejection, the Ad Hoc Committee to Liberate Downtown Palo Alto has held a series of demonstrations during September. The demonstrations have included Guerrilla-Sociodrama marches along University Avenue, a sit-in in the Hare Brewer & Kelley high-rise in downtown Palo Alto, occupation and "liberation" of the building denied us, and the convening of the Community Center of the Streets every weekend in the heart of Downtown P. A. for open-air rock concerts and other mass cultural events. Hundreds participated in the demonstrations and thousands have attended the continuing concerts.

The use of the public parks in Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and San Mateo County for the Be-In has been denied the Free University during the summer and Stanford has also turned our quarterly public celebrations away, despite repeated applications, meetings, and other hassles. In response to this situation, the MFU has taken the cities of Menlo Park and Palo Alto to U. S. District Court to seek an injunction permitting the Be-In, on the grounds that such exclusion constitutes violation of Constitutional rights to freedom of speech and assembly. The San Mateo County Peace and Freedom Movement also has supported our right to the use of public parks and is considering mass action in the event of final exclusion.

Cooperative Economics

We are setting up projects in cooperative economics so that we can move away from modes of thought and living determined by a competitive economic system which pits every man against his brother. The goal of these enterprises is to permit us to control, to a greater extent, the means by which we earn our livelihood, and to express creative energies through work.

Presently, we operate an arts and crafts store at 1061 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, as a producer's cooperative. Space permitting, we will sell anything, with the producer setting the selling price. MFU takes 30% of the selling price from non-members, and 25% from members, in order to pay the expenses of maintaining the store.

The MFU print shop currently operates at 337 Ramona Street, Palo Alto, utilizing an offset press and auxiliary equipment. Organizations we support and MFU members may use this facility to have printing done at low cost.

Community Center

A large Community Center is now in the planning and early implementation stage. We have been donated more than \$10,000 for this project and much additional equipment and time by Free U members and others. We hope that a geographical center may mobilize a further local explosion of new cultural energy. The Community Center will house a dance hall, a coffee shop, arts and crafts workshops, a central office, and other activities. The Community Center activities will be directed towards people of all ages, but it is hoped that it will serve one age group in particular -- the youth that are too old to be comfortable at home and too young to be comfortable in the obsolete forms of social organization offered them by established society. We have no desire to program, manipulate, lead, or instruct young people, but simply to offer space for the creativity of youth and experienced alike. For the Free University it is hoped that the Center will offer a source of new life and change and a new dimension of activity.

Newsletter

Our newsletter, The Free You, is mailed to members about twice a month. Editorial policy is to present diverse and opposing views, relevant to the problems we face as a community. All members are encouraged to submit material for The Free You.

Media

We are trying to go beyond our membership and reach larger numbers of people by working with mass media, the underground press, demonstrations, movies, tapes, and posters. We seek new modes of communication to facilitate education for living. During the past quarters MFU members were on five television programs and several radio broadcasts. A movie dealing with MFU activities has been in preparation. Further, we hope to complete a handbook on the MFU which includes an administrative summary and will incorporate descriptions of numerous radical educational techniques employed in classes as well as personal statements of individual class experiences. If something has impressed you enough to want to write about it, give us a copy, too.

Celebrations

We hold be-ins, sponsor performances in the arts, and throw parties, in order to foster spontaneous joy and human solidarity.

WHO BELONGS TO THE MIDPENINSULA FREE UNIVERSITY ?

MFU membership is open to all. There are no pre-requisites for admission. The registration fee is ten dollars per academic quarter, except for high school and pre-high school members, who are entitled to discounts. The high school dues this quarter are two dollars. Last quarter over 1100 members registered, paid, and attended courses. About half our members come from the Stanford University community; the rest are drawn from other midpeninsula college campuses, from high schools, and from the surrounding communities. Although most of our members are in their twenties, we have increasingly more members in other age groups. MFU is not intended to be an organization of young adults. We are a community, and this implies the involvement of human beings in all stages of life. Three year-olds and fifty year-olds participate together in classes, cooperatives, and celebrations.

HOW IS THE FREE UNIVERSITY RUN ?

MFU is governed democratically by its members. Basic policy decisions are made at the monthly General Meeting. Our newsletter announces the time, place, and agenda, and carries arguments pro and con on various issues. Programs to implement policy are worked out by the 'Coordinating' Committee, which meets every Thursday over dinner, from 6:15 to about 8:00 p. m. Consult The Free You or call 328-4941 for the meeting place. ALL MFU MEMBERS MAY BECOME MEMBERS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE SIMPLY BY ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETINGS.

The MFU Executive Committee, consisting of elected and appointed officers, has two functions: to provide administrative coordination; to make decisions in emergencies. It is entirely subject to the Coordinating and General Meetings.

The Committee System

MFU special committees and workshops are set up for specific purposes in order to further democratize, decentralize, personalize, and rationalize our structure. Members wishing to serve on committees listed below should sign up for them when they register, or else call the telephone numbers that are given.

Special committees, unlike courses and other projects, are responsible to the membership as a whole through the Coordinating and General Meetings and the newsletter. Every committee is open to all members, except the Stanford Committee on Radical Education (open only to members of the Stanford Community) and the Free High School Workshop (open only to high school students). Anyone may form a new committee. A chairman should be elected and meetings announced.

COMMITTEES

Score

The function of the Stanford Committee on Radical Education is to represent MFU on the Stanford University campus. It works with Stanford students, faculty, administration, and alumni to bring about a more progressive educational policy and practice at Stanford. SCORE may function autonomously as an independent affiliate of the MFU under its own name. It has its own bank account and works with educational and political student organizations through the Stanford Community of the Left, a broad based federation of campus organizations. For information about SCORE, call Vic Lovell at 854-3551.

Headquarters

This committee administers and manages the operations of the Headquarters office, which is the communications center of the Free University. For information, call Kathy Kirby at Headquarters: 328-4941.

Events and Media

The Events and Media Committee plans, originates, and carries out all the events and celebrations in the Free University, including Be-Ins, Street Festivals, rallies, dances, concerts, and so on. Extensive plans are under way for a large "Street Fair" event next Spring. We are moving into radio and television coverage of the Free U. For information, call Marc Porat, 328-4941.

External Relations

The Committee for External Relations is a new committee created for the establishment and maintenance of relations with other voluntary associations in the area, especially other radical groups and campus organizations. For information, call Vic Lovell at 854-3551.

Properties

As MFU has grown larger, we have developed a need for increasing amounts of space for operations. We lease a store and a print shop and are attempting to lease a large Community Center building. Possibilities seem to be opening up in the direction of acquiring space for experimental living communities. The Properties Committee handles the acquisition and maintenance of the physical environment of the Free University. Call Kim Woodard at 854-3455 for information.

Store

The Free University's Menlo Park store, selling artworks and handmade crafted goods, has its own bank account. The Store Committee operates the store and manages its bank account. Call Rene Lewis at 851-8706 for information.

Curriculum

The Curriculum Committee looks for prospective course leaders, assists in the preparation of course descriptions, and collates this material for the catalog each quarter. It also arranges locations for courses and is available for consultations with course leaders. For information contact Robb Crist at 854-5905.

Finance

The Finance Committee accounts for income and expenditures, prepares financial statements for publication in The Free You, arranges for audits, and drafts a proposed budget. For information, call Judith Woodard at 854-3455.

Community Center

The Community Center Committee coordinates planning for the Center, will coordinate its operation when it is opened, and will plan for expansion of community services needed to build a community. For information contact Bob Cullenbine at 326-8104.

Political Affairs

This committee proposes, discusses, and carries out MFU political action programs and administers the MFU Bail Fund. For information contact Graham Lewis at 851-8706, Lew Hailey at 328-4941, or Vic Lovell at 854-3551.

COURSE CLASSIFICATIONS

For simplicity, courses are classified under nine very broad headings. For some courses, the choice of heading is debatable.

SEE PAGES 2 AND 3 FOR CLASSIFICATIONS -- COURSE CHANGE INFORMATION -- REGISTRATION DETAILS.